

'Risk' Checkup Injures Science, Dr. Bush Warns

Link to Defense
Strained, He Tells
House Committee

By L. Edgar Prina

Dr. Vannevar Bush has warned Congress that the Government's security program has "almost destroyed" the one-time healthy partnership between scientists and the armed services.

The president of the Carnegie Institution made his views known to the House Government Operations Committee last June. His testimony and that of other scientific leaders on the organization of military research and development was made public today.

Pointing to delays in security clearances and the lack of official statements on such investigations, Dr. Bush noted that scientists who had served the country well and loyally now were made objects of security questions. He added:

"The whole air of suspicion is just not such as to produce good collaboration, the kind of really wholehearted collaboration between military men and the scientific community that we very much need to have for the problems that are ahead of us."

Supported by Killian.

Dr. Bush was joined in his comments on security by Dr. James R. Killian, jr., president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who warned that the present program "may be one of the things most hazardous to our future research and development activity in this country in relation to military problems."

The MIT president contended that a condition has been created where scientists "are clearly discouraged and apprehensive about ... what sometimes seems to be a preoccupation with security procedures and policies at the expense of scientific progress."

Dr. Killian said that the fundamentally important thing is to "maintain our leadership in the effectiveness of our military weapons." This is far more important "than sitting on our secrets," he said.

Counseling by a member, Dr. Killian said, "I think we can go overboard in letting security stifle our creative activities."

Along another line, Dr. Killian declared that there has not been adequate and direct scientific counseling in drafting top military plans and policy and asserted:

"At the present time important new technological advances, in my judgment, are piling up and are only partially used because our normal planning and decision-making processes cannot respond and make use of them as fast as they become available."

Russian Advance Indicated.

He said that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have not always been informed by their staffs about technological developments relevant to the decisions they are making. He called for the appointment of Assistant Secretaries of Research and Development for all three services as one way to solve the problem.

The educator also warned about the Soviet campaign to (See RESEARCH, Page A-4.)

Research

(Continued From First Page.)

turn out professional engineers and scientists. He said that while he had no accurate figures, he thought it was true that Russia has "already passed us in their annual production of professional engineers ..."

"They have been rapidly multiplying the educational institutions and increasing incentive in order to build up a cadre of men in this field, and have been doing the same thing in science as well as engineering," he said.

In his testimony, Dr. Bush sounded an alert about biological warfare. Noting that much is said about hydrogen and atomic bombs, he said:

"We do not hear as much about biological warfare, but I can assure you gentlemen that I am as deeply concerned about that as a possibility as I am about fission bombs and fusion bombs."

Aside from the last row of seats occupied by friends and relatives of the Sheppard family, all spectator space in the oak-

paneled courtroom was taken up by the 50-odd newsmen reporting the trial.

Doubts All-Out War.

Dr. Bush testified that he believed the Russians would not force an all-out world war that would mean the indiscriminate use of hydrogen bombs, gas and biological warfare if they thought it would be mutually destructive.

He said that the Soviet was doing "pretty well" now and that we "must be very careful not to force" an all-out war.

"Our use of the A-bomb, for example, in a minor affair such as in Indo-China, would be foolhardy in the extreme," he declared.

The scientist also called for "far more emphasis on getting an adequate air defense for the North American continent." He said that this would be a deterrent to Soviet aggression.

Dr. John Von Neumann, professor of mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J., also criticized the Government's security program.

"Right now we are with security in a legal no-man's land," he said, calling for the Congress to devote its attention to the problem.

(Washington
The Evening
Star

October 19,
19

page A1 and
A1

b7c

77-64804-50

b7c

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen ☒ _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Sizoo _____
 Mr. Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

President Picks Princeton Man For AEC Post

President Eisenhower today appointed Dr. John von Neumann, Princeton (N. J.) mathematician, to be a member of the Atomic Energy Commission for a five-year term expiring June 30, 1959.

Dr. von Neumann, who is 50 years old and a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, succeeds Eugene M. Zuckert, who left the commission when his term expired last June 30.

The new appointment, subject to Senate confirmation later, will bring the commission again to its full membership of five.

The White House said Mr. von Neumann, a native of Budapest, Hungary, is an independent politically. The commission thus is now composed of three Republicans, Joseph Campbell, Willard Frank Libby and Chairman Lewis L. Strauss; one Democrat, Thomas E. Murray, and one independent.

Dr. John von Neumann
Special Inquiry - White House

Report sent White House October 18th, 1954.
Supplemental report completing investigation sent October 21, 1954.

ALL

67C

Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
 Wash. News _____
 Wash. Star 1 _____
 N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
 N. Y. Mirror _____

Date: 10/23/54

77-64804-30

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Boardman ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Harbo ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Parsons ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Sizoo ✓
Mr. Winterrowd ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Holloman ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

(AEC)

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER NAMED JOHN VON NEUMANN OF THE INSTITUTE FOR
ADVANCED STUDY AT PRINCETON, N.J., TO THE AEC.

10/23-JR1217P

*Did we investigate
him?*

RECORDED - 87

EX - 107

77-64804-30

7 OCT 28 1954

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson ____
Mr. Boardman ____
Mr. Nichols ____
Mr. Belmont ____
Mr. Harbo ____
Mr. Mohr ____
Mr. Parsons ____
Mr. Rosen ____
Mr. Tamm ____
Mr. Sizoo ____
Mr. Winterrowd ____
Tele. Room ____
Mr. Holloman ____
Miss Gandy ____

ADD 1 AEC
VON NEUMANN, WHO WAS APPOINTED FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM, SUCCEEDS EUGENE
M. ZUCKERT WHOSE TERM EXPIRED LAST JUNE 30. ✓

10/23--JR1218P

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Sizoo _____
 Mr. Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

ADD 2 AEC

MR. EISENHOWER GAVE VON NEUMANN A RECESS APPOINTMENT. THE SENATE MUST CONFIRM THE ACTION WHEN IT RECONVENES.

SENATE ACTION PROBABLY WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL NEXT JANUARY. THE SENATE SESSION WHICH CONVENES NOV. 8 WILL CONSIDER CENSURE CHARGES AGAINST SEN. MCCARTHY

VON NEUMANN, 50, IS A BUDAPEST-BORN MATHEMATICIAN AND A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.

A POLITICAL INDEPENDENT, HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION'S GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN RECENT YEARS.

HE ALSO HAS SERVED ON SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARDS FOR THE AIR FORCE AND THE ARMY, AND HAS BEEN A CONSULTANT WITH THE SUPER-SECRET CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. HIS AIR FORCE DUTIES HAVE LARGELY CONVERGED ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

VON NEUMANN WAS A PROFESSOR AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY FROM 1931 THROUGH 1933.

VON NEUMANN, A VETERAN OF U.S. ATOMIC WEAPONS RESEARCH, IS CREDITED WITH SPEEDING DEVELOPMENT OF THE H-BOMB BY PROVIDING QUICK MEANS OF SOLVING THE INTRICATE MATHEMATICAL PROBLEMS POSED BY THERMONUCLEAR REACTIONS.

VON NEUMANN HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN PERFECTION OF ELECTRONIC "BRAINS" NOW WIDELY IN USE FOR MAKING IN MINUTES CALCULATIONS THAT WOULD TAKE MATHEMATICIANS YEARS TO FINISH WITH PENCIL AND PAPER.

DR. NORRIS BRADBURY, DIRECTOR OF THE AEC'S LOS ALAMOS (N.M.), BOMB LABORATORY HAS SAID H-BOMBS LIKE THOSE TESTED IN NOVEMBER, 1952, AND LAST SPRING COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PUT TOGETHER WITHOUT VON NEUMANN'S ELECTRONIC COMPUTATIONS.

10/23--JR1226P

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Sizoo _____
 Mr. Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

ADD 3 AEC

VON NEUMANN IS THE FOURTH MEMBER APPOINTED TO THE FIVE-MAN ATOMIC COMMISSION BY PRESIDENT EISENHOWER SINCE HIS INAUGURATION. PREVIOUS EISENHOWER APPOINTEES ARE CHAIRMAN LEWIS L. STRAUSS, JOSEPH CAMPBELL, AND DR. W. F. LIBBY. ALL THREE ARE REPUBLICANS. THE FIFTH MEMBER, THOMAS E. MURRAY, A DEMOCRAT, WAS APPOINTED BY FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMAN.

VON NEUMANN'S FIVE-YEAR TERM WOULD EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1959.

MR. EISENHOWER NAMED EDWIN M. MCMILLAN, A PHYSICS PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, TO SUCCEED VON NEUMANN ON THE AEC'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE. MCMILLAN WAS A CO-RECEPIENT OF A NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS IN 1951.

ALSO NAMED TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WERE WARREN C. JOHNSON, PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, AND JESSE W. BEAMS, PHYSICS PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

TERMS OF ALL THREE ADVISERS WILL EXPIRE AUG. 1, 1960.

10/23--JR1230P

4-22a

NUMEROUS REFERENCE
SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Wm. Williams Room 1301
Supervisor [Signature] Searcher [Signature]
Date 4/11/49 Initial [Signature]

R# [Redacted] SERI AL 31

#	<u>[Redacted]</u>	<u>Wm. Williams</u>
\$	<u>[Redacted]</u>	<u>4/11/49</u>
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OK	<u>[Redacted]</u>	<u>Wm. Williams</u>
NK	<u>[Redacted]</u>	<u>[Redacted]</u>

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/11/49 BY SP1AG/DA
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MAILED
NOV 17 1954
NAME CHECK

November 16, 1954

JOHN VON NEUMANN
Born: December 28, 1903
Budapest, Hungary

b7C []
You are advised that an investigation concerning John Von Neumann was conducted by the FBI in 1954 at the request of Mr. Stephen Benedict, a member of the White House staff. A summary of this investigation dated October 18, 1954, was furnished to the Honorable Sherman Adams, the White House. If you desire the results of this investigation you are referred to him.
(77-64804) The foregoing information is furnished to you as result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. It is for your use and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency.

Orig. to OSI-4
Req. rec.: November 1, 1954

b7C [(4) []

b7D [Note: []

77-64804
NOT RECORDED
18

b7C []
Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc- Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont

November 20, 1954

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Sherman Adams
The Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/13/89 BY Sp1/AG/gll 11-1

My dear Mr. Adams:

Reference is made to my letter dated October 18, 1954, which transmitted a summary reflecting the results of an investigation conducted by this Bureau concerning John Von Neumann.

On November 17, 1954, the Atomic Energy Commission advised that [REDACTED] had furnished information that Von Neumann and [REDACTED] were well acquainted. [REDACTED] described [REDACTED] long been a member of the Communist Party, and held Communist Party meetings at his home during the Depression years.

The extensive background investigation on Von Neumann referred to above, did not disclose any close association with [REDACTED] nor did a review of our files concerning [REDACTED] reveal any close acquaintanceship with Von Neumann other than both being associated with [REDACTED]

There is enclosed herewith a summary of pertinent information in our files concerning [REDACTED]. In the absence of a specific request, no additional investigation will be conducted by the FBI concerning this matter.

Dissemination has been made in this matter to the Atomic Energy Commission and all other agencies which received copies of the summary as indicated in my letter of October 18, 1954. J. Edgar Hoover

Sincerely yours,

(Summaries for Von Neumann investigation were furnished to the AEC, Office of Secretary of Defense, G-2 and ONI, as Von Neumann a consultant to these agencies.)

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Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
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Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

CONFIDENTIAL
COMM - FBI

NOV 24 1954
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63 NOV 30 1954

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: DR. JOHN VON NEUMANN

DATE: Nov. 17, 1954

Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman

Senator Hickenlooper called me on the morning of November 17, 1954, to advise that he is going to start hearings at 9:00 a.m., Thursday morning, November 18, on the confirmation of Dr. John Von Neumann and Dr. Willard F. Libby, newly appointed Commissioners to the Atomic Energy Commission. Hickenlooper stated he was aware of Dr. Von Neumann's defense of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and his published statements setting forth his critical views on security. The Senator stated, however, that Senator H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey has confidentially informed him that he has received information that Dr. Von Neumann is very close to and an associate of [REDACTED] at

[REDACTED] was a member of the Communist Party. Hickenlooper stated that Senator Smith was not making this charge but was merely passing on information that may or may not be well grounded.

The Senator stated that he would have to have some information on [REDACTED] so that he would know how to handle the situation tomorrow, and that he was not going to be caught in trying to "kiss off the confirmation of Von Neumann in the event he had bad connections." The Senator wondered if we could give him any guidance on a confidential basis as he does not feel that this is a matter to be handled through official channels at this point.

I told the Senator I did not know what we could do to help him, but we would check and then decide what to do. I told the Senator that I would call him either late this afternoon or call him at his home tonight.

I have asked [REDACTED] to have a summary prepared on [REDACTED] special so that we could have it early this afternoon. I have asked [REDACTED] to review the investigation on Dr. Von Neumann to see if we came up with any information pertaining to his contacts with [REDACTED]

DEC 3 1954
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Rosen

RECORDED-101
EX-11
11-17-54
17-64804-33

13 NOV 29 1954

Memorandum to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols
RE: DR. JOHN VON NEUMANN

I think that under the circumstances if we have anything substantial, we should advise Hickenlooper on a personal and confidential basis. I think this would be preferable to having him go through any official channels.

*we should see
what we have
first*

*Amended
on*

yes.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

November 20, 1954

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

JOHN VON NEUMANN
SPECIAL INQUIRY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/13/89 BY SP1/AG/ltl

Reference is made to my memorandum dated October 18, 1954, which transmitted a summary reflecting the results of an investigation conducted by this Bureau at the request of the White House concerning John Von Neumann.

On November 17, 1954, the Atomic Energy Commission advised that [redacted] Princeton University, had furnished information that Von Neumann and [redacted] were well acquainted. [redacted] as having long been a member of the Communist Party, and held Communist Party meetings at his home during the Depression years.

The extensive background investigation on Von Neumann referred to above, did not disclose any close association with [redacted] nor did a review of our files concerning [redacted] reveal any close acquaintanceship other than both being associated with [redacted]

There is enclosed herewith a summary of pertinent information in our files concerning [redacted]. The White House has been advised that we are taking no further action in the absence of a specific request.

In addition to the White House, dissemination is being made of this matter to all agencies which receive copies of the summary as indicated in my memorandum of October 18, 1954.

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____

- Orig & dup
- 1 - Yellow
- 1 - Belmont
- 1 - Boardman
- 1 - Front Office Ticker

MAILED 2
NOV 23 1954
COMM-FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

FROM : L. B. Nichols

DATE: November 17, 1954

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Nichols	
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Mohr	
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SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

(4)

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With reference to the call which I received from Senator Hickenlooper on November 17th regarding the alleged associations between [REDACTED] and Dr. Von Neumann, I wish to advise that we had some 200 references in the files of [REDACTED]. It was only possible to get the highlights in a summary in order to enable me to talk to Hickenlooper on the night of November 17th. The summary is attached.

I talked to Hickenlooper and told him that it was to be specifically understood that I was talking to him on a personal and confidential basis. He said it was understood and he would so respect the matter as he had in the past.

[REDACTED]

I told Hickenlooper that a check was made at that time and various associates stated that [REDACTED] but that in recent years, associates had heard nothing which would indicate that [REDACTED] had Communist leanings. One source advised that [REDACTED]

cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Belmont

LBN: [REDACTED] - 102 LICE
[REDACTED] D REF MON 1

NOV 22 1954
KELLER W.H. AG, AEC
with cc CSD, ONI #62
11-22-54

Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols

November 17, 1954

RE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Hickenlooper then told me that he has since learned that Senator Smith talked to [REDACTED] Strauss about Von Neumann^{and} about [REDACTED] Smith received his information from a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He stated that Strauss sent Bryan LaPlante up to conduct a "15-minute investigation" and report back to Smith.

Hickenlooper then told me in confidence [REDACTED]

The Senator expressed appreciation for the cooperation and stated he would keep after the Commission.

It is recommended that when the Domestic Intelligence Division completes the review on [REDACTED] this data be summarized and furnished to the Atomic Energy Commission. It is believed this should be given expeditious attention so that we can be in a position, should anything come up, of stating the full facts have been furnished to the AEC.

The investigation of Von Neumann did not disclose any association with [REDACTED] nor did the file review today, other than the fact that both were connected with [REDACTED]

V. m

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

L. F. BOARDMAN

DATE November 17
1954

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

1 - Sec. Tick file
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - Yellow

Tolson
Boardman
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Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

SYNOPSIS:

Pursuant to Mr. Nichols' request of 11-17-54 there is set forth herein pertinent information from our files concerning the captioned individual.

review revealed no association between John Von Neumann and [REDACTED] other than both being connected with [REDACTED]

ACTION: None. For your information.

1 - Mr. Nichols

(6)

Reference is made to Mr. Nichols memorandum of the same date under the caption "John Von Neumann" wherein he advised that he had received a call from Senator Hickenlooper concerning information that the latter had received from Senator Smith in New Jersey that Von Neumann was a close associate of [REDACTED]

Mr. Nichols requested that our files be reviewed concerning [REDACTED] and that a memorandum be prepared late this afternoon. Due to the shortness of time and the numerous file references, there is set forth herein the highlights of the pertinent information in our files concerning [REDACTED]

XXXXXX
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.



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Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.



Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.



Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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For your information: _____



The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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 X FOR THIS PAGE X
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77-64404-
Date: November 20, 1954

To: Captain John A. Leters
Director of Security
Atomic Energy Commission
Room 2314, 7-5 Building
16th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JAMES VAN ALSTON

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/13/89 BY SP1/AG/gtl

ALL
b7c
Reference is made to my letter dated October 18, 1954,
which transmitted a summary reflecting the results of an investi-
gation conducted by this Bureau at the request of the House
concerning John Van Alstona. Further reference is made to information
obtained from your agency on November 10, 1954, to the effect that
[redacted] reported
that Van Alstona was closely associated with [redacted]
[redacted] stated that [redacted] was long time a member of
the Communist Party, and this Communist Party was active in the
during the Depression years.

The extensive background investigation of Van Alstona
did not reflect any close association with [redacted] nor did a
review of our files concerning [redacted] reveal any close
acquaintanceship other than both having been associated with the
[redacted] There is
attached for your information a summary of pertinent information in
our files concerning [redacted]

Enc

1 - Assistant Chief of Staff, [redacted] with [redacted] BY SPECIAL DELIVERY
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
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Belmont _____
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Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

1 - Mr. George J. Gould (with Encl.)
Director - Security Division
Room 33913
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

(10)

BY SP1 MSGR

NOV 23

COMM - FBI

1 ENCL

22
63 DEC 10 1954

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Director of Naval Intelligence (With Encl.) BY SPECIAL MESSENGER
Department of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET7

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION **FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 12/2/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/11,14; 11/26/54	REPORT MADE BY
TITLE 00 JOHN VON NEUMANN			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

b7D

b7C *Referral* The files of [REDACTED] The State Department, Passport Office files reviewed. Applicant's 1937 passport unavailable for review.

- RUC -

REFERENCES: Bureau teletype to Albuquerque dated October 4, 1954.
b7C Report of SA [REDACTED] at Washington Field dated October 13, 1954.
 Bureau airtel to Washington Field dated October 12, 1954.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Referred

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R. L. Kelly	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 116-1914-35
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 - Bureau (116-1914) 1 - Washington Field (116-875)		b7C

WFO 116-875

Refused

The files also noted that [redacted] had also [redacted] by letter dated September 12, 1950.

b7C-

b7D

No additional or derogatory information concerning the applicant was found in the files of Confidential Information.

b7C

The files of the United States State Department Passport Office, were reviewed by SA [redacted] and following information concerning the applicant was found therein:

Passport number 405095 was issued to the applicant on June 29, 1954, for a proposed trip of eight weeks duration to England, Sweden, Germany, and Italy; purpose of which indicated as "scientific conferences." The application for this passport indicated that the applicant was born on December 28, 1903, at Budapest, Hungary, and that he had immigrated to the United States in September, 1931. It indicated that the applicant was naturalized in the United States District Court at Trenton, New Jersey, on January 1937, receiving Certificate Number 4196342. The applicant's permanent residence was indicated as 26 Westcott Street, Princeton, New Jersey.

WFO 116-875

The application further indicated that the applicant was married on November 15, 1938, to KLARA FOM NEUMANN, who was born on August 18, 1911, at Budapest, Hungary. This application also revealed that the applicant had resided outside of the United States on visits as follows:

England, France and Sweden - August to
September, 1949.
Colombia - August 1 to August 23, 1950.
Greece, Turkey, and Italy - August to
September 6, 1952.
Mexico - August, 1953.

The file reflected that the issuance of this passport was cleared by the Atomic Energy Commission on June 9, 1954.

The applicant was issued special passport number 25103 on January 8, 1943, for travel in any country except the British Isles for official business in Ireland and necessary countries enroute, on duty for the Navy Department. This application was supported by a memorandum from the Office of the Chief of Naval Personnel dated December 30, 1942, which stated that the applicant, a contract employee, had been assigned for duty by the Navy Department in London, England.

The applicant stated in his application that he had traveled in Hungary, Denmark, France, and England, from May to December, 1937, and the records indicated that he had applied for a passport in 1937. This passport was validated at London, on June 18, 1943, to expire July 12, 1943, for travel to the British Isles and one journey direct to the United States by way of Eire, Newfoundland, and Canada, for official business.

The applicant was next issued passport number 108960 on June 23, 1949, for a proposed six weeks travel to England, Denmark, and Norway for official business in behalf of the Office of Naval Research, United States Navy Department.

The applicant submitted a letter on April 27, 1949, which explains that he was a Consultant to several agencies of the United States Armed Services and was a supervising officer for several contracts of the Office of Naval Research at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. The letter stated that it was necessary for him to go to Europe on government business with the approval and at the expense of the United States Navy. He also stated he would

WFO 116-875

have to visit various scientific and government institutions in England.

On June 17, 1949, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations advised the Passport Office that a letter of credential had been issued the applicant that day authorizing travel on Naval vessels and requesting a passport be issued to him. The file indicated that issuance of this 1949 passport was cleared with the Atomic Energy Commission on May 17, 1949. On March 6, 1952, this passport was renewed at Washington, D. C. to expire June 22, 1953, for proposed travel of six or ten weeks beginning about May 10, 1952, to attend scientific conferences in Sweden, France, and possibly England.

In his renewal application, the applicant indicated past travel outside of the United States in England, France, and Sweden, August 10, 1949, to September 2, 1949; and Colombia, August 3, 1950, to August 23, 1950.

b7c [redacted] United States Passport Office, Clerk, advised SA [redacted] that several special searches have been made of the files of the Passport Office and the passport files maintained at the Federal Record Center in Alexandria, Virginia, but it has not been possible to locate the applicant's 1937 passport.

No derogatory or additional information concerning the applicant was located in the passport files.

- RUC -

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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February 25, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BOARDMAN
MR. BELMONT
MR. NICHOLS

This afternoon Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, called to see me. The Admiral stated that in connection with the confirmation of John Von Neumann he, the Chairman, had been informed that certain members of the Senate may raise some questions concerning Von Neumann about two matters which appear in Von Neumann file. One of these matters relates to the fact that Von Neumann's relatives live in Budapest and have considerable funds and that this is indicative of the fact that some deal must have been made by Von Neumann's relatives with the Russians in order to continue to live in that style. Admiral Strauss stated he had talked to Von Neumann about this particular information and Von Neumann stated that to the contrary his relatives did not live in Budapest but in some other town in Hungary and that he, Von Neumann, was supporting them and that they were not of ample means.

The second piece of information in the Von Neumann file

b7D [REDACTED] and he, the Admiral, in talking with Von Neumann, is convinced that Von Neumann's motivation [REDACTED] was not in any way connected with subversive leanings.

I think it would be well for us to review our files on Von Neumann because I assume we made an investigation of him at some time and have a summary prepared upon same and particularly see whether the two pieces of adverse information mentioned to me by Admiral Strauss came from the FBI files or from other sources.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

I understood from Admiral Strauss that the hearings in the Von Neumann case will be started shortly by Congress.

RECORDED - 81

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

63 MAR 2 - 1955

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 6:07 PM
DATE 2/25/55
BY [REDACTED]

EX-125

77-64804-3

b7c

4:50 PM

March 1, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BOARDMAN
MR. BELMONT
MR. NICHOLS

Mr. John Lindsay, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General, called to advise that the Attorney General had requested he check with us concerning the special inquiry report on John Van Newmann. He wanted to know if a copy of this report had been sent to the White House. I told Mr. Lindsay that I did not know whether a copy had gone to the White House or to Admiral Strauss but that I would check on the matter and if one had not gone to the White House I would be glad to send one.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.
John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-

JEH: (7)

b7c

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
 Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

SENT FROM D. O.	
TIME	6:28 PM
DATE	3/1/55
BY	[redacted]

RECORDED-32

77-64804-38

6 MAR 3 1955

63 MAR 11 1955

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: February 11, 1955

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: JOHN VON NEUMANN
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
 Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

b7C

Joint Committee on Atomic Energy called at my office today. He pointed out that Senator Anderson, Chairman of the Joint Committee, has endeavored to handle the confirmation of Dr. John Von Neumann on a discreet manner. There is opposition to Von Neumann and [redacted] advised me confidentially that [redacted]

b7C

Senator Anderson directed the staff to review the Atomic Energy Commission files including the FBI reports on Von Neumann. The staff then briefed the Committee and Anderson had the AEC file sent to the Committee where the contents were made available to members of the Committee. Senator Anderson then suggested that members of the Committee who had questions speak privately to Von Neumann. This, members of the Committee have done. [redacted] then pointed out that in one of our reports a reference is made [redacted]

b7D

In this connection a check of our files reflect the following:

cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Rosen

LBN
(4)

RECORDED - 70

INDEXED - 70

77-64804-40

2 MAR 23 1953

nan
to Bureau 3-16

Memo for Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols

RE: JOHN VON NEUMANN
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

According to

[REDACTED]

He further stated that public hearings have now been scheduled on the Von Neumann appointment for March 8th to be preceded by an Executive Session and the Committee would like to have an answer by that time.

It is recommended that the Special Inquiry Section check back on the letter, that we ^{take} steps to establish the authenticity and the accuracy of our report which may necessitate [REDACTED] Since time is of the essence, it is believed this matter should be given expeditious attention.

yes & promptly

b7C

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen **b7c**

DATE: Feb. 16, 1955

FROM : Mr. Callan

SUBJECT: JOHN VON NEUMANN
SPECIAL INQUIRY

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

This is to advise of a question raised by Von Neumann to members of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, presently holding hearings in connection with his nomination to be a member of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC);

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7D

The investigation of Von Neumann was highly favorable. In April, 1954, he testified before the Personnel Security Board of the AEC as a character witness on behalf of J. Robert Oppenheimer, whose atomic energy clearance was suspended as a result of the hearings. He testified before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations on June 15, 1954, during which he criticized the Government's security program.

[REDACTED]

Frank Cotter, staff member, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, contacted Assistant to the Director L. B. Nichols on February 11, 1955, and said the committee is attempting to handle Von Neumann's confirmation in a discreet manner. Cotter stated that in the Bureau's investigation reference is made to

[REDACTED]

Attachments

77-64804

cc-Mr. Nichols

-Foreign Liaison Unit

(9)

2/16/55 sent

77-64804-42

Memo to Mr. Rosen

b7D

[REDACTED]

said this statement is in direct conflict with the information reported by the Bureau and the committee desired the conflict be resolved.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) [REDACTED]

(2) That the attached letters be transmitted to the White House, the Attorney General, and other agencies which received copies of the Bureau's summary; namely, Office of Secretary of Defense, Atomic Energy Commission, G-2, Department of the Army, and Office of Naval Intelligence.

Not sent

(3) That the attached correspondence be directed to Assistant to the Director L. B. Nichols for review prior to dissemination in the event he may desire to orally advise Frank Cotter of the above.

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *RW*

DATE: March 2, 1955

FROM : *b7C* [REDACTED]SUBJECT: JOHN VON NEUMANN
SPECIAL INQUIRY

With reference to dissemination of supplemental information concerning John Von Neumann, a prospective member of the Atomic Energy Commission, a memorandum dated February 28, 1955, to the Attorney General did not state specifically that the information contained therein was furnished to the White House. The Director commented, "Why didn't copy to A. G. indicate that?"

On October 18, 1954, a summary memorandum concerning the results of an extensive investigation of Von Neumann was transmitted to the White House, the Attorney General and other interested agencies. The transmittal memorandum to the Attorney General stated specifically that a copy of the afore-mentioned summary was furnished to the White House. It was pointed out that the request for investigation came from the White House.

On February 28, 1955, the White House and the Attorney General were furnished [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was merely a follow-up, containing no information in addition to that previously furnished to the White House and the Attorney General. The Bureau's memorandum to the Attorney General, dated February 28, 1955, specifically stated in the first paragraph that the request for investigation came from the White House, but did not state that the White House had been advised.

It is acknowledged that it would have been better to have advised the Attorney General specifically that the White House had been advised.

ACTION:

Care will be taken in the future to see that memoranda to the Attorney General specifically mention dissemination to other agencies.

77-64804

EX-112

67 MAR 28 1955

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON 

FROM : L. B. NICHOLS

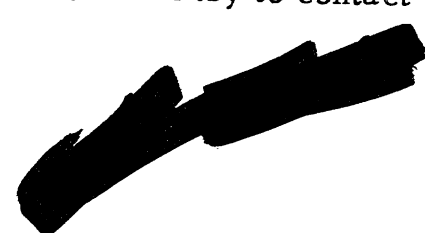
DATE: Feb. 25, 1955

Tolson _____
 Boardman _____
 Nichols _____
 Belmont _____
 Harbo _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
 Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

SUBJECT: JOHN VON NEUMANN
 Special Inquiry

ALL
 b7C

With reference to the attached memorandum  to Rosen February 24, 1955 in the above-captioned matter, when I first learned that Admiral Strauss was to see the Director, it was my considered judgment that I not make contact with the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy as recommended until after the Director has seen Strauss today. Accordingly, I am withholding making any contact until the Director does see Strauss. I will try to contact the Joint Committee later on this afternoon.

CC - Mr. Boardman
 Mr. Rosen

memo Mr. Tolson
 2/26/55 LBN

77-64804-47
 NOT RECORDED

6 

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

DATE: February 28, 1955

FROM : L. V. Boardman

SUBJECT: JOHN VON NEUMANN
ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT
SPECIAL INQUIRY

Tolson ☒
Boardman ☒
Nichols ☒
Mohr ☐
Parsons ☐
Rosen ☐
Tamm ☐
 Sizoo ☐
Winterrowd ☐
Tele. Room ☐
Holloman ☐
Gandy ☐

SYNOPSIS:

John Von Neumann has been nominated Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) member and confirmation is pending in Congress. Admiral Strauss, Chairman, AEC, expressed concern to Director on 2/25/55 about Von Neumann's relatives in Hungary whom Von Neumann claims to support and about

b7D [Bufiles reflect Von Neumann investigated 1953 and 1954 as Atomic Energy Act - Applicant and Special Inquiry, respectively. Summary memorandum prepared under date of October 18, 1954, (attached) and disseminated to all interested agencies. Investigation reflected Von Neumann highly regarded and considered loyal by associates. Investigation reflected Von Neumann testified before AEC Personnel Security Board in 1954 as character witness for Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer. Subsequent to preparation of summary memorandum, information received that Von Neumann testified before Congressional Subcommittee in June, 1954, at which time he stated Government Security Program should be handled judicially rather than administratively. This information also disseminated to interested agencies.

Investigation did not reflect Von Neumann had close relatives in Hungary and his immediate family members in U.S. His wife is reported to come from a prominent Hungarian family and Admiral Strauss may have confused wife's family with Von Neumann's own family.

b7D [information is contained in summary memorandum.

Attachment

(8)
77-64804

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont

cc

This 64804-48

7 MAR 1955

ACTION:

In view of the fact that Admiral Strauss has informed that Von Neumann is supporting his relatives in Hungary, whereas our investigation has reflected that Von Neumann's immediate family members are in the United States but his wife's family members are in Hungary, it is possible that Admiral Strauss is confused. Therefore, we are having our Liaison representative contact Admiral Strauss in an effort to pin this down. Upon receipt of additional information from Admiral Strauss, a determination will be made as to whether or not additional investigation should be conducted.

✓ [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

DETAILS

Reference is made to the memorandum from the Director dated February 25, 1955, advising of a discussion with Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) on the same date, concerning John Von Neumann who has been nominated as an AEC Commissioner confirmation of which is presently before Congress.

Von Neumann was the subject of an Atomic Energy Commission - Applicant investigation in December, 1953, and the subject of a Special Inquiry investigation in October, 1954. Investigation reflected he is a naturalized U. S. citizen of Hungarian origin. He came to the U. S. in 1930 and has been on the faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, since 1933. He has had numerous appointments as consultant to the Departments of Defense, Navy and Army; and to the AEC. Persons interviewed during the investigation considered him to possess the highest integrity, reputation and loyalty.

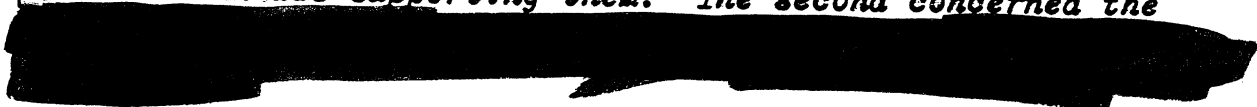
b7D [REDACTED]

The investigation further reflected that in 1954 Von Neumann testified before the AEC Personnel Security Board as a character witness for Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer. Von Neumann testified his association with Oppenheimer was based on mutual employment. He testified that his views differed from Oppenheimer's concerning development of the H-bomb. He considered Oppenheimer loyal.

A complete summary of the available information concerning Von Neumann, dated October 18, 1954, is attached. Copies of this summary have been disseminated to the White House, Attorney General, AEC, Secretary of Defense, G-2 and ONI. Subsequent to the preparation of the summary, local newspapers, on October 19, 1954, reported Von Neumann had testified in June, 1954, before a Congressional Subcommittee in which he criticized the Government security program, in that he advocated that security proceedings should be handled

judicially rather than administratively. Photostats of Von Nuemann's above testimony were afforded the same dissemination as the summary memorandum.

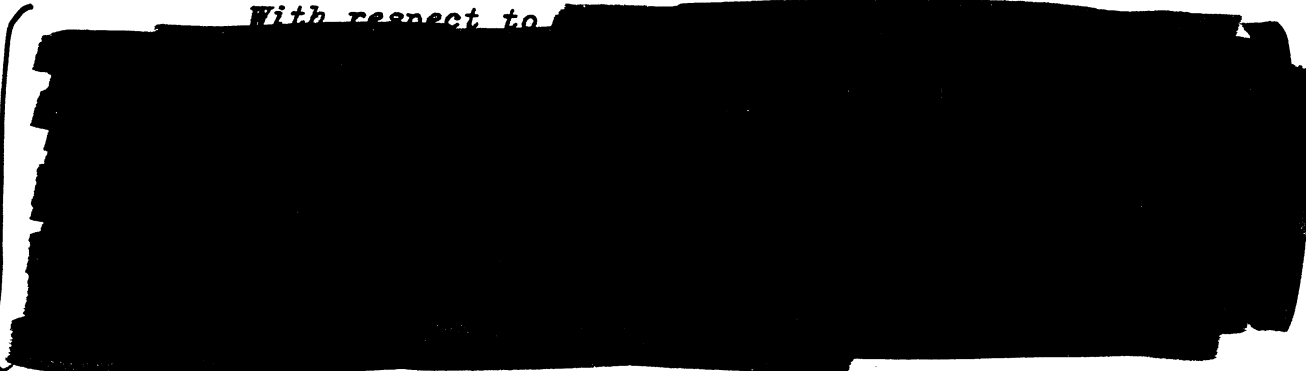
b7D { During the Director's discussion with Admiral Strauss, the Admiral indicated concern with respect to two matters appearing in Von Neumann's file. The first concerned Von Neumann's relations in Hungary and Admiral Strauss said Von Neumann was supporting them. The second concerned the



With respect to Von Neumann's relations in Hungary, our investigation determined his father is deceased. His mother and two brothers are naturalized U. S. citizens. Von Neumann's first wife is a naturalized U. S. citizen. His present wife, whom he married in Hungary in 1938 is a naturalized U. S. citizen. Investigation reflected all of the above are highly regarded and are loyal. Investigation did not reflect that Von Neumann had any close relatives in Hungary and at least six professional associates have stated that to their knowledge Von Neumann has no relatives or contacts outside the United States. One professional associate did report that Von Neumann's present wife, Klara Dan, comes from a very prominent family in Hungary.

In view of the above, it appears that Admiral Strauss may have been confused as to which relatives Von Neumann is supporting in Hungary; the relatives may be his wife's relatives rather than his own.

b7D { With respect to



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: March 1, 1955

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: JOHN VON NEUMANN
ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT
SPECIAL INQUIRY

Tolson	✓
Boardman	✓
Nichols	✓
Belmont	✓
Harbo	✓
Mohr	✓
Parsons	✓
Rosen	✓
Tamm	✓
Sizoo	✓
Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holloman	✓
Gandy	✓

Reference is made to your memorandum to the Director dated February 28, 1955, in which it was pointed out that Von Neumann has been nominated a member of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and his confirmation is presently pending in Congress. On February 25, 1955 Admiral Strauss, Chairman, AEC, talked with the Director and expressed concern about Von Neumann's relatives in Hungary whom Von Neumann claims to support.

The Bureau's investigation of Von Neumann has reflected that his immediate family members are in the United States but that his wife's family members are in Hungary and that Strauss may possibly have been referring to Von Neumann's wife's family. The memorandum indicated that Liaison was contacting Admiral Strauss in an effort to pin this down.

LAC Liaison Agent [redacted] contacted Admiral Strauss on the afternoon of February 28, 1955, and Strauss advised that Von Neumann's only relative presently in Hungary is a cousin whom Von Neumann has not heard from in some time. Von Neumann told Strauss that he had loaned this relative some money some time ago but had not heard any further from him. Strauss stated as far as the support of relatives in Hungary, this concerned Von Neumann's wife's relatives and, according to Von Neumann, his wife's relatives are no longer in Hungary but are in Austria and Strauss believed in Vienna.

According to Strauss, Von Neumann's wife's relatives are destitute financially and that Von Neumann has sent them money.

Strauss had no further facts regarding this and pointed out that he had received this information from Von Neumann himself and that he merely wanted to alert the Director.

ACTION:

This is submitted for your information.

1 - Mr. Boardman
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

1 - Mr. Nichols
1 - [redacted]
1 - Liaison Section

ALL
b7C

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. BELMONT

DATE: March 10, 1955

Tolson _____
 Boardman _____
 Nichols _____
 Belmont _____
 Harbo _____

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: JOHN VON NEUMANN
 ATOMIC ENERGY ACT - APPLICANT
 SPECIAL INQUIRY

Rowd _____
 Room _____
 Holloman _____

b7c
 Reference is made to the memorandum from Mr. Boardman to the Director dated February 28, 1955, concerning captioned subject. Referenced memorandum pointed out the following:

Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, expressed concern to the Director on February 25, 1955, concerning one of Von Neumann's relatives in Hungary, whom he allegedly supports, and

b7D
 Referenced memorandum further pointed out that investigation reflected Von Neumann himself had no known close relatives in Hungary but his wife may have had relatives there. Referenced memorandum recommended that Mr. Strauss be contacted by our Liaison Representative for further information, after which a determination would be made as to whether or not additional investigation should be conducted.

Reference is also made to the memorandum from Belmont to Boardman dated March 1, 1955, informing that Mr. Strauss had been contacted on February 28, 1955. At that time, Strauss informed that Von Neumann told him that he (Von Neumann) contributed to the support of his wife's family, who are financially destitute and who now reside in Austria rather than Hungary. Mr. Strauss had no additional information.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the fact that Mr. Strauss had no additional facts other than the information set forth above, it is recommended that no additional inquiries be conducted at this time with respect to Von Neumann's wife's family in Austria.

77-64804

Tickler: Mr. Boardman, Belmont

77-64804-51
RECORDED

24 1955

b7c
(6)

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Von Neumann Approved

Members of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy showed both good sense and a high degree of responsibility in voting unanimously to confirm Dr. John von Neumann as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission. Democratic members of the committee, in particular, must have been under sore temptation to play politics with the appointment. Investigation disclosed that Dr. von Neumann not only has cousins in his native Hungary, but also in the past associated, while differing, with persons who later turned out to be Marxists. Under some contemporary criteria this would have been more than enough to brand him a security risk. In view of the attitude of Chairman Strauss of the Atomic Energy Commission in the Oppenheimer case, it would perhaps have been poetic justice—if an immensely unfair and destructive piece of business—for the Democrats to have thrown the von Neumann nomination back in Mr. Strauss' face.

That the committee did no such thing is a tribute to the statesmanship of members, who viewed the real national interest in retaining the services of a man of Dr. von Neumann's attainments. Dr. von Neumann is one of the country's most gifted mathematicians. There is every reason to think that he is unflinchingly loyal and discreet, and that he will make a real contribution to the Atomic Energy Commission. He also has demonstrated his intellectual integrity and independence by reiterating his conviction—expressed compellingly in his testimony before the security board last year—that Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer is not a security risk. Significantly, not a single Senator on either side of the aisle objected to this repeated indorsement.

This is remarkable primarily because of the wave of fear and suspicion in which official actions have been floundering for so long. We take the committee action as a heartening indication that responsible legislators are shucking off any feeling that they must toady to the remnants of McCarthyism. We hope the Administration fully appreciates the meaning of what was done; the example is one for the Executive Branch—and especially the Atomic Energy Commission—to emulate. The next question is whether the Administration will seek a man of like independence, or merely a rubber stamp, for the long unfilled remaining vacancy on the commission.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

b7c

77-64804
NOT RECORDED
126 APR 1 1955

Wash. Post and Times Herald 16
Wash. News _____
Wash. Star _____
N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
N. Y. Mirror _____

Date: MAR 10 1955

APR 4 1955

Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: January 6, 1956

FROM : MR. R. R. ROACH

SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER JOHN VON NEUMANN
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (AEC)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

[REDACTED] of the AEC called Liaison Agent [REDACTED] at 9:00 P.M. on 1-5-56 and stated that Von Neumann's residence at 1529 - 29th Street, N.W., had been broken into and that [REDACTED] had sent two of his men to see if any classified documents were missing. [REDACTED] called back later and stated that his men had determined that Mrs. Von Neumann had been out of the house all afternoon and evening visiting Von Neumann who is in the hospital. When she got home, she found the house had been entered through a window in the back and that the furnishings were in general disarray. A check revealed that nothing was missing even though there was money, jewelry and silverware in sight. It was determined that Mrs. Von Neumann's clothes had been disturbed and scattered throughout the house; that her lingerie had been scattered not only throughout the house but out in the back yard. [REDACTED] advised that no classified documents were missing, in fact, none were in the home as Dr. Von Neumann made it a practice never to take any documents away from his office.

[REDACTED] furnished this information to the 7th Precinct of the Metropolitan Police Department. The Police stated that this obviously was the work of a sex pervert and that there had been a number of such housebreakings occurring in the same general area which were also obviously the work of a sex pervert. The Police agreed to keep an eye on the VonNeumann residence.

[REDACTED] stated he was furnishing this for the Bureau's information and that there was no action required by the Bureau.

ACTION:

None. This is for your information.

(5)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - Liaison Section
- 1 - [REDACTED]

RECORDED-59

EX-107

77-64804-54

20 JAN 11 1956

63 JAN 17 1956

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET4

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.



Deleted under exemption(s) b7c b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.



Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.



Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.



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MAILED
CHECK

April 23, 1956

JOHN VON NEUMANN *Summary*
Born: December 28, 1903
Budapest, Hungary

John Von Neumann

In response to your request, please be advised that an applicant-type investigation concerning the subject of your inquiry was conducted by this Bureau in October, 1954, at the request of the White House, and the results were furnished the White House on October 18, 1954. The information furnished to the White House also contains results of applicant-type investigations concerning the subject of your inquiry conducted by this Bureau in 1947 and 1953. At the request of the White House you are referred to the Office of the Honorable Sherman Adams should you desire the detailed results of these investigations.

(77-64804)

For your additional information, please be advised that the October 19, 1954, issue of the Washington "Evening Star" contained an article which reflected that Von Neumann testified before the House Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations in June, 1954. The article further revealed that testimony was released to the public on October 19, 1954, and it indicated that Von Neumann criticized the Government's security program.

Referred
Copy to 4/25/56
8-5-57

[REDACTED]

Reg rec'd: 4/10/56

(4) [REDACTED] b7C

(see note on page 2)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

RECORDED - 71

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EX-108

77-64804-55

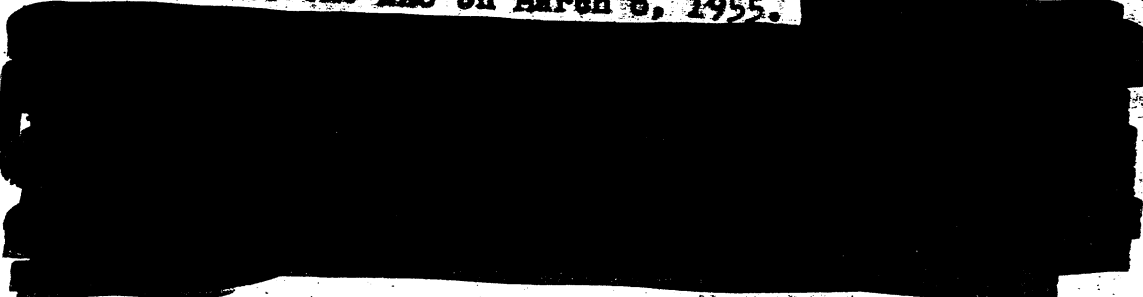
6 APR 25 1956

273
Von Neumann
is deceased per
check of AEC
by [REDACTED]
12/3/54

b7C

71 APR 30 1956

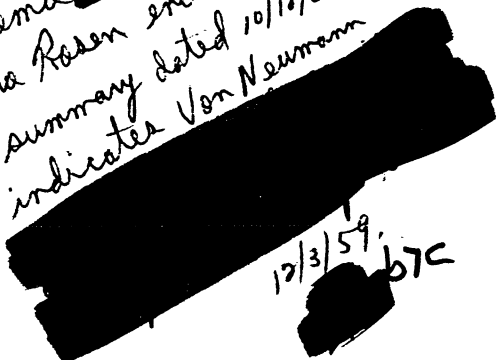
Note: Request received from White House 10/1/54 by letter dated 9/30/54 to investigate Von Neumann as a candidate for the AEC. The Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy unanimously approved his nomination to the AEC on March 8, 1955.



Referred

Summaries of Von Neumann's investigation were also furnished to the AEC, Office of Secretary of Defense, G-2 and ONI on October 21, 1954, since Von Neumann is a consultant to these agencies.

Memo  b7C
to Rosen enclosing
summary dated 10/18/54
indicates Von Neumann



12/3/54

b7C

Referred

4-22b ~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED ~~DATE 4/1/89 BY 6016/mon~~
DATE 4/1/89 SEARCHED ~~17~~

R# 719 Date 4/11 Searcher Number

SERIAL

✓ 77-64804 Special Agent

40-10354

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100-344686 I 6/25/76

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10-1072-10/24/54

SL - Wash. City News
H - 1/2 SL - 1/2

82721 4166-1661

12-87251 - 1/31/55

13-110
New York Herald
A. 2/7/23 Tribune

11 A - New York, N.Y.

51 63490 - 115, 116 117

SECRET

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: *John F. Kennedy*

R#

4/14

Date

4/11

Searcher

Number

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

✓ 140-10079-4, ✓

✓ 105-12100-24, 35, 27

✓ 116-2713-50, 48, ✓

A-3/25/55

✓ 65-3404-16, 15 ✓

✓ 65-63629-50.5

✓ 65-63032-30, 29 ✓

(S) [REDACTED]

✓ 117-0-198 b-1

✓ 105-13906-2,

✓ 105-13897-4,

✓ 105-25063-111 p. 4) 5, 15, 17

✓ 121-323112-3

✓ 116-37888-5,

✓ 105-25063-108

✓ 117-833-398, (2)

✓ 100-342972-1911

Classified by 50106/100
Declassify on: OADR 4/17/97
4-296, 198

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: John Hermann, John Searcher
 R# 4/4 Date 4/11 Number 4

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

Classified by SP1A6/TAM

Declassify on: OADR 4-7-89

✓	100-92526-981	#296,598
✓	100-346221-65	(1947)
✓	100-345958-2	
✓	100-190625-2864	2872 p. 11
✓	100-366605-15 p. 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 23	
	56	
✓	100-359672-30	
✓	100-346208-114	
✓	100-345996-19	

b7c

to L. 100-190625-2864, J. ✓

SS	100-366605-1, 43	
b1	121-33827-2	
81	100-59028-11 p. 22	
SS	65-58805-12	(3)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

Subject:

JOHN LOUIS VON NEUMANN

FILE : 100-344686

67K

TO : SAC, Newark

FROM : John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: JOHN R. VON NEUMANN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

15
27

DATE: March 13, 1946

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/14/89 BY SP/AG/jtl

Reference is made to the letter from El Paso to the Bureau dated February 15, 1946, entitled "Cinrad," a copy of which was designated for your office and with which was forwarded a photographic copy of the reports and personal data from the files on Von Neumann at the Los Alamos D-M Project, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

It is noted that Von Neumann's forwarding address was Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

Investigation concerning Von Neumann, except where absolutely pertinent to attempts on the part of the Soviet representatives in the United States to obtain information regarding the atomic bomb, should be reported only in his main investigative file. Data developed pertinent to the Cinrad investigation should, of course, be reported not only in the Von Neumann file but also in the Cinrad case.

On any of the key scientists at the Los Alamos Project, of whom John R. Von Neumann was one, a careful review should be made of the material obtained from Los Alamos. All suspicious contacts should be carefully identified and checked for their possibility as channels of information from the subject to Soviet representatives.

A highly discreet check should be made of the subject's usual contacts as developed through your investigation for the same purpose.

If a reasonable discreet investigation develops no associates through which information could be furnished to the Soviets, the Bureau should be advised and consideration will be given to a direct approach to the subject for development as an informant.

Copies of reports in this matter should be furnished to San Francisco, which is office of origin in the Cinrad case.

This matter should be given immediate, discreet and thorough attention

cc - San Francisco

John R. Von Neumann

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

RECEIVED SECTION

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P.M.

INVESTIGATION

1946

RECEIVED

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&
INDEXED

EX - 40

53

F B I
MAR 1946

SE 19 100-344686

67K

DIRECTOR, FBI

February 15, 1946

Lett. San Fran.
3/13/46

University of California
Berkeley, California

Lett. San Fran.
3/13/46

University of California
Berkeley, California

Lett. NYC
cc San Francisco
3/13/46

Columbia University
New York 27, New York

Lett. Los Angeles
cc San Fran.
3/13/46

DR. J. R. OPPENHEIMER, California Institute of
Technology, Pasadena, California

Lett. NYC
cc San Fran.
3/13/46

Pupin Physics Laboratory,
Columbia University, New York, New York

Lett. Boston
cc San Fran.
3/13/46

Street, Springfield, Massachusetts

Lett. Chicago
cc San Fran.
3/13/46

Illinois

Lett. WFO
3/13/46

Bureau of Standards
Washington, D. C.

Lett. Baltimore
cc San Fran.
3/13/46

Davidson Chemical Corporation,
Baltimore, Maryland

Lett. Indianapolis
cc San Fran.
3/13/46

Notre Dame University,
South Bend, Indiana

Montreal, Canada

Lett. WFO
3/13/46

Bureau of Standards,
Washington, D. C.

Lett. Cincinnati
cc San Fran.
3/13/46

Central Research Depart-
ment, Monsanto Chemical Company, Dayton, Ohio

Lett. Springfield
cc San Fran.
3/13/46

University of Illinois,
Champaign, Illinois

Lett. Newark
cc San Fran.
3/13/46

JOHN R. VON NEUMANN, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Lett. Kansas City
cc San Fran.
3/13/46

University of Missouri,
Columbia, Missouri

Det
1259
5-13-46

DIRECTOR, FBI

February 15, 1946

Lt. San Francisco
3/13/46

University of California,

Berkeley, California

Lt. Los Angeles

cc San Fran.

Venice, California

3/13/46

Lt. Albany

cc San Fran.

Oneonta, New York

3/13/46

Lt. San

Francisco

3/13/46

University of
California, Berkeley, California

University of California,

Berkeley, California

Lt. San

Francisco

3/13/46

University of California,
Berkeley, California

Very truly yours,

R. C. SURAN
Special Agent in Charge

100-2968

CC: San Francisco
Los Angeles
New York
Buffalo
Boston
Chicago
Washington Field
Baltimore
Indianapolis
Cincinnati
Springfield
Kansas City
Albany

~~X~~
John R. Von Neumann

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION **FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: May 23, 1946

FROM : SAC, Newark

SUBJECT: JOHN R. VON NEWMAN, was.
Dr. John Von Neumann,
Professor John Von Newman,
Johann Von Neumann.
INTERNAL SECURITY - RALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/13/81 BY SP/AC/gtl

Reference is made to a letter received by the Newark Field Division dated March 13, 1946 in which a request was made by the Bureau that the Newark Office conduct a discreet investigation into the above captioned subject's background.

Enclosed with this letter will be found five copies of the report of Special [redacted] dated May 23, 1946 in which this case is closed in the Newark Field Division.

Inasmuch as the investigation into the subject's background has not determined that there are associates through which information could be furnished to the Soviets, it is suggested that the subject be interviewed for development as an informant of the Bureau.

5 Encls.

100-30877

EX-40

100-344686
MAY 28 1946

SAC, Newark

Director, FBI

June 25, 1946

JOHN R. VON NEWMAN, was
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

In accordance with your request, Bureau authority is granted to discreetly interview the subject looking toward the possibility of developing him as an informant.

The Bureau desires to be advised promptly as to the results of this interview.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/13/81 BY SP1/AG/glt

ALL
b7c

Tolson	
E. A. Tamm	
Clegg	
Coffey	
Glavin	
Ladd	
Nichols	
Rosen	
Tracy	
Carson	
Egan	
Gurnea	
Hendon	
Pennington	
Quinn Tamm	
Nease	
Starnes	

RECORDED 3
100-344686
JUN 26 1946 P.M.
JUL 9 1946
EX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEWARK, NEW JERSEY**

NK FILE NO. **100-30877**

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY	DATE WHEN MADE 5/23/46	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/11, 17, 18, 29, 30; 5/17/46	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE JOHN R. VON NEWMAN was. Dr. John Von Neumann, Professor John Von Newman, Johann Von Neumann.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject presently engaged in research in mathematics and physics at Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton, N.J. at a salary of \$12,500 per year. Subject previously closely associated with Manhattan Engineering Project. Naturalization records reflect subject born 12-28-03 at Budapest, Hungary and naturalized 1-8-37 at Trenton, N.J. Subject registered for Selective Service at Princeton, N.J. Information furnished by [REDACTED] not of derogatory nature.

REFERENCE:

JUN 14 1946

Bureau letter to Newark dated 3-13-46.

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated upon a letter received from the Bureau dated March 13, 1946 advising that JOHN R. VON NEWMAN had been a key scientist at the Los Alamos Project. The Newark Field Division was requested to conduct a highly discreet check of subject's usual contacts to determine if there were any contacts through which information could be transmitted to the Soviets.

[REDACTED] United States District Court, Clerk's Office, Trenton, New Jersey produced a Declaration of Intention #859 which was filed by Dr. JOHN VON NEUMANN residing on the Princeton-Kingston Road at Princeton, New Jersey. This Declaration of Intention reflected that Dr. VON NEUMANN was 27 years of age at the

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>S. R. [Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - San Francisco 3 - Newark	100-344676-4	16 MAY 28 1946

ALL
b7C

NK 100-30877

time, that he was of Hungarian nationality and the Magyar Race. He was born in Budapest, Hungary on December 28, 1903 and was married to MANETTE on January 1, 1930 at Budapest, Hungary.

MANETTE was born at Budapest, Hungary on September 7, 1909 and she entered the United States at New York City on January 28, 1930.

The last foreign address of Dr. VON NEUMANN was Berlin, Germany and he immigrated to the United States from Bremen under the name of JOHANN VON NEUMANN on the SS BREMEN on January 28, 1930. The above information was sworn to in the United States District Court, Trenton, New Jersey on December 21, 1931.

The naturalization records reflected that the subject came into the United States as JOHANN VON NEUMANN on January 28, 1930 under Certificate of Arrival #VFP 593286.

Petition for Naturalization #1778 was filed under the name of JOHN VON NEUMAN, 20 Bayard Lane, Princeton, New Jersey. He listed his wife as MANETTE or MARIETTE and listed one child, MARINA, born March 6, 1935 in New York City. Information was also furnished that the child lived with him. References on this petition were [REDACTED] Princeton, New Jersey, a professor, and [REDACTED] Princeton, New Jersey. Both witnesses stated that they had known the subject since September 28, 1921. Certificate of Naturalization #4196342 was issued to subject on January 8, 1937.

67C [REDACTED] Clerk of Local Board #1, Princeton, New Jersey produced the file on the subject from which the following information was taken:

The subject registered as JOHN VON NEUMANN, 26 Westcott Road, Princeton, New Jersey, telephone Princeton 2186. He listed the person who would always know his address as Dr. FRANK AYDELOTTE at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. He also furnished information that he was employed at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. He registered on February 14, 1942 and was described as white, 5'8", 186 pounds, brown eyes, brown hair, light complexion. On September 27, 1942 his address was changed to 1882 Columbia Road, N.W., Washington, D.C.

On his questionnaire form which was filed on June 10, 1942, he furnished the following information. He was educated at the University of Berlin in Berlin, Germany and studied mathematics, physics and chemistry for two years. He also studied at the Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich, Switzerland where he studied mathematics, physics, and chemistry for three years. He also studied at the University of Budapest, Hungary where he had mathematics for one year.

He listed his employment as first, being a professor of mathematics, and second, as being a member of the S.E.C. BIB, National Defense Research Council, and the official investigator for one of its contracts. He indicated that he had had 18 years' experience as a professor of mathematics and one and a half years' experience as the second occupation listed above. His annual salary is listed as \$12,500.00. His address for the second employment listed above was 1530 "P" Street N.W., Washington, D.C.

He furnished information that he was also employed as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the United States Department of War. His family was listed as himself, CLARA VON NEUMANN, his wife, age 30, and his child, MARINA VON NEUMANN, age 7. It was indicated that MARINA spent part of her time with the subject and part of the time with his first wife. He also listed as a dependent, MARGARET VON NEUMANN, age 61, his mother. He furnished information that since 1941 he had contributed \$400.00 toward her upkeep and indicated that she had \$600.00 other income contributed by his brother, MICHAEL VON NEUMANN, who lived with his mother.

Information was furnished that he owned property to the extent of about \$2,000.00 and that he had not been convicted of any felony.

He was classified by the draft board into the following classifications: 3B, 4H, 3AH, 1AH, and 4A.

On his occupational questionnaire which was filed April 24, 1942 he indicated that he began working in 1921 and that he was next best fitted from his present work as a statistician in the interpretation of statistical material, computations and compilation analysis.

A letter was received from the subject by Local Board #1, Princeton dated October 1, 1943 furnishing information that he was employed by the Bureau of Ordnance, Department of Navy. A letter was also received from the Bureau of Ordnance in the Department of Navy, Washington, D. C. dated September 14, 1942 advising that the subject was engaged in primary offensive and defensive marine warfare and in the protection of ships, and that his work was confidential. He entered on duty with this Bureau of the Navy on July 15, 1942 and was paid \$25.00 per day for his work, as a contract physicist and mathematician. It was

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
RECORDED - 344686-5

b7c
[REDACTED]
EX-76
SAC, Newark

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: August 7, 1946

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: JOHN R. VON NEWMAN, was. [REDACTED] BROWN

INTERNAL SECURITY - [REDACTED]

CLASSIFIED BY: Sp1/AG/gtt
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR
2/13/89

Reference is made to my letter to you in the above case dated June 25, 1946, authorizing you, pursuant to your request, to interview the above subject for possible development as a Bureau informant. Reference is made also to your letter to the Bureau in the above case dated July 2, 1946, [REDACTED]

b7D
[REDACTED] Specific attention is directed to the statement in your referenced letter of July 2nd that since you do not know the significance of [REDACTED] or the subject's possible connection [REDACTED] it is not believed advisable to directly contact Newman at this time and interview him.

For your further information and assistance in this connection, it is [REDACTED]

No objection is perceived, however, to interviewing the subject Von Newman regarding the basis of his contact and association [REDACTED] In this connection, you are instructed to directly interview Von Newman for the purpose of determining the basis of any association between him and [REDACTED] For your assistance in this connection, it is noted that [REDACTED]

b7L
consequently no objection to a direct approach to Von Newman on this matter. In the event Von Newman appears cooperative upon interview, you should extend the scope of the interview to develop fully his past activities and contacts [REDACTED]

upon the basis of such interview, you should make a careful determination as to the advisability and security of utilizing Von Newman as a confidential informant or source of information, and your recommendations in this connection should then be made available to the Bureau.

b7c
[REDACTED] CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED]

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET4

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.



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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):



For your information:



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May 26, 1950

JOHN R. VON NEWMAN
also known as
DR. JOHN R. VON NEUMANN

b7D

Von Neumann was born in Budapest, Hungary, on December 28, 1903, and on December 8, 1937, became a United States citizen through naturalization at Trenton, New Jersey. Prior to entering the United States in September, 1931, he attended school in Hungary and in 1930 received his Ph.D Degree from the University of Budapest.

Referred

100-344686-1 and 116-1914-1 and 6

cc - 100-344686
- 116-1914

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DATE 2/13/89 BY SP1/AG/gtt

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ENCLOSURE

100-344686-7

[REDACTED]

b7D

100-344686-6

Referred

[REDACTED]

100-344686-1

In 1946 Von Neumann was investigated under an Internal Security - R classification, which investigation was closed by Newark report dated May 23, 1946. He was also investigated as an Atomic Energy Act applicant in 1947, which resulted negatively as to derogatory information and was closed by Boston report dated April 29, 1947.

100-344686-4 and 116-1914-14

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3

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO

FROM :

SUBJECT:

JOHN R. VON NEUMAN, was.,
Dr. John Von Neumann,
Professor John Von Neuman,
Johann Von Neumann
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

DATE: December 28, 1950

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

Reference is made to memorandum from [REDACTED] to Mr. Belmont dated December 4, 1950, recommending that Liaison obtain permission from G-2 to disclose to the Armed Forces Security Agency the identity of [REDACTED] as contained in the Bureau's report dated May 23, 1946, at Newark, entitled "John R. Von Neuman, with aliases, Internal Security - R." [REDACTED] is listed in the reports on Von Neuman compiled by the War Department at the Los Alamos DSM Project.

For your information, reports prepared by the Manhattan District during the war are now under the controlling custody of the Atomic Energy Commission; therefore, this matter was discussed with Mr. [REDACTED] of the AEC Security Division. [REDACTED] has put in a request with his Los Alamos Security Office for the file on Von Neuman and the file is being forwarded to Washington. Upon receipt here, [REDACTED] stated he would review the file and then advise the Bureau as to whether there would be any objection to furnishing the identity of [REDACTED]

ACTION:

This matter will be followed with [REDACTED] and the results will be furnished to you.

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100-344686-9
JAN 27 1951

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. [REDACTED] b7c

DATE: January 16, 1951

FROM : [REDACTED] b7c

SUBJECT: JOHN R. VON NEWMAN, was.,
 Dr. John Von Neumann,
 Professor John Von Newman,
 Johann Von Neumann
 INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Tolson _____
 Ladd _____
 Clegg _____
 Glavin _____
 Nichols _____
 Rosen _____
 Tracy _____
 Harbo _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Nease _____
 Gandy _____

Reference is made to the memorandum from [REDACTED] to Mr. Belmont dated December 4, 1950, requesting that Liaison obtain authority from G-2 to disclose to AFSA the identity of informant [REDACTED] in Bureau report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 23, 1946 at Newark, New Jersey, entitled as above. This report answers a number of questions which the Armed Forces Security Agency has directed to the Bureau.

The identity of [REDACTED] in this report is listed as a photostatic copy of reports and personal data from the files on subject at the Los Alamos D.S.M. Project, Los Alamos, New Mexico. It will be recalled that this was a project of the Manhattan Engineering District and that all reports prepared by MED are presently in the custody of the Atomic Energy Commission and not under the Army.

As a result, this matter was discussed with [REDACTED] of the AEC Security Office. By memorandum of December 28, 1950, it was pointed out that Mr. [REDACTED] was having his files checked and would advise the Bureau accordingly.

[REDACTED] has now informed that he has located the information attributed to [REDACTED] and that the Atomic Energy Commission has no objection to the Bureau furnishing the identity of [REDACTED] to the Armed Forces Security Agency.

ACTION:

It is recommended that this memorandum be furnished to the Internal Security Section.

AFSA advised as to identity of [REDACTED] 1/25/51

RECORDED - 115

JAN 27 1951

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b7c

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 8/7/51

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DATE 2/13/89 BY SP1/AG/89/b7c

DIRECTOR, FBI
SAC, NEWARK

FROM
b7c
SUBJECT

JOHN VON NEUMANN
INFORMATION CONCERNING
INTERNAL SECURITY - R -

Re Boston letter to Director 7/5/51.

Files of this office reflect an investigation was conducted concerning
VON NEUMANN inasmuch as he was a key scientist at the Los Alamos Project. No
information was developed to indicate that he was other than a loyal American
citizen.

b7D

CC: Boston

NK 100-30277

JEC
SE 13

INDEXED - 24
RECORDED - 24
EX-79

344686-12
AUG 8 1951
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Many-Languaged Man

AEC's von Neumann Knows His Factors

SOMEONE watching a Joint Atomic Energy Committee confirmation hearing in the Old Supreme Court chamber last November might have noticed a stocky, balding man in the back row listening so intently that his eyes were all wide wonder, his frame just about off the front edge of his seat.

The eager spectator, Dr. John von Neumann, saw his scientific colleague, Dr. Willard Frank Libby, squirm under the endlessly probing questions of Senators and Representatives. Libby was up for approval as an Atomic Energy Commissioner and Von Neumann was to follow.

The nominations hit the Joint Committee smack in the middle of the AEC's Dixon-Yates power contract fight. Partisan tempers were apparent. At the end of the long afternoon the little man in the back row sadly trundled his briefcase back to the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study without ever having been heard.

A member of the press table was heard to remark: "That poor guy, about to be thrown to the wolves."

BUT THE gentle little academician did come back before Congress in March. And he handled himself so expertly that it took the Joint Committee only three minutes of executive session time to approve him as the AEC's fourth and newest commissioner.

"I have not exactly led a contemplative life," Von Neumann explained the other day in his spartanly furnished office in the AEC's 19th st. and Constitution ave. nw. headquarters.

Hardly. Von Neumann at 51 is considered one of the world's first-water mathematicians. A pupil, then colleague, friend and neighbor of the late Albert Einstein, he gave mathematics a statistical quantum theory more than 20 years ago, devised the first giant mechanical brain, helped work out on paper the probability that the A-bomb and H-bomb would work and, of late, has been applying mathematical accuracy to weather forecasting.

On a somewhat different plane, Von Neumann also wrote a book which, among other things, details the mathematical possibilities in calling your partner's bluff at poker.

The son of a Hungarian banker, John von Neumann remembers his father giving him a math book presents at the age of 13 as a reward for being a "rapid calculator" in his prep school. Von Neumann took advanced degrees at universities in Berlin and Zurich and left Europe for America in 1930: "It was quite obvious the great political upheaval was coming. I didn't like it."

He became a United States citizen in 1937, began serving as a consultant to the Government's top technical agencies three years later and in 1943 joined the elite crew of scientists at Los Alamos which developed the A-bomb.

Following the war, Von Neumann spent his time at Princeton devising one of the world's first giant rapid computers. A progeny, "Maniac", a multimillion-dollar installation at Los Alamos with 10,000 vacuum tubes and 250,000 electric cables, was used in working out the theory of the H-bomb.

It can do the work of 20 men 4000 times more quickly when, in rapid calculations in the Von Neumann brain, means six minutes instead of one year.

Just before his appointment as a commissioner, he headed a project at Princeton in theoretical meteorology. The object was to forecast weather by getting atmospheric motions down to a mathematical certainty.

The project has been so successful that the Weather Bureau during the past month has been using its findings to hit day-by-day wind forecasts on the button from a Joint Numerical Prediction Bureau at Suitland.

WHY WOULD any scientist want to leave the academic Elysium at Princeton for the administrative detail and sometime political hurly-burly of Washington and the Atomic Energy Commission?

"Chiefly new experience," Von Neumann answered. And he added he thought it "quite important" to have scientists on the AEC "for a rapid evaluation of the developments which might open up and the direction which they might go."

Von Neumann so far has met the political hurdles with flat truth.

When the Joint Committee asked about his support of his Princeton and Los Alamos colleague, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, Von Neumann said he had testified for Oppenheimer during the lengthy hearing last summer because he did not believe Oppenheimer to be a "security risk," as the AEC had charged.

However, Von Neumann added that the Oppenheimer decision had been made by "honest, intelligent men" (two of them are now his fellow commissioners) and "it would not be in the public interest" to reopen the case.

Similarly, Von Neumann refused to apologize for his friendship for Prof. I. I. Rabi of Queens University,

son
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

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Wash. Post and Times Herald E 7
Wash. News
Wash. Star
N. Y. Herald Tribune
N. Y. Mirror

Date: JUN 5 1955

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Von Neumann
is deceased per
ack of AEC by
12/1/59

66 JUN 15 1955

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76 JUN 14 1955



The newest Atomic Energy Commissioner, Dr. John von Neumann, is one of the world's top mathematicians.

Ontario, and Prof. W. J. Alexander of Princeton. He merely said he did not agree with their political views.

Von Neumann has just rented a house at 1529 29th st. nw. in Georgetown, an area he knew from a four-month stay there during the winter of 1942. His wife, Klara, also is a mathematician, having done planning and coding for several of the electro calculating machines. His daughter, Marina, is a junior at Radcliffe.

His office life runs on a 9-to-5 schedule during at least the first and third weeks of each month when the Commission holds its meetings. In between, he is likely to be on the road, making first-hand inspections of AEC laboratories around the country and delivering a speech or two.

After office hours, he divides his time among caring for a shaggy-haired dog named "Inverse," munching sweets (with no discrimination whether they be cake or candy) and visiting friends.

As for poker, the mathematical expert who described the probabilities of bluffing with a strong hand as precedent for future high bids in "Theory of Games and Economic Behavior" allows as how he can hold up five cards during a simple draw game, but not much else.—WARREN KANA.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

Subject:

JOHN LOUIS VON NEUMANN

FILE : 100-344686-A

Awarded by the A-Scientist Gets Medal Of Freedom

United Press

John von Neumann, ailing member of the Atomic Energy Commission, received the Medal of Freedom from



President Eisenhower yesterday in a wheel chair ceremony at the White House.

The President pinned the red-ribboned decoration on the 52-year-old atomic scientist and read a citation praising the Budapest-born physicist for "exceptionally meritorious service" in promoting the scientific progress of this country's armament program.

It said his work on "variously highly classified missions... resolved some of the most difficult technical problems of national defense."

Others attending the ceremony included Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson and Adm. Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Von Neumann, former professor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J., has been a member of the AEC for less than a year but has served as a consultant on atomic work since 1940.

Previous winners of the Medal of Freedom are former Deputy Defense Secretary Robert A. Anderson and Robert Cutler, former presidential assistant on security matters.

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DATE 2/13/89 BY SP1/AC/STH

Dr. Von Neumann Approved

Dr. John Von Neumann has all the qualifications needed to make him a decidedly valuable member of the Atomic Energy Commission. As a world-renowned mathematician who has played a key role in the development of A-weapons and the hydrogen bomb, he firmly believes that important additional discoveries have yet to be attained in the nuclear and thermo-nuclear fields. And with that viewpoint—~~together~~ with his outstanding scientific ability—he can do much in the AEC to inspire and promote further advances of both a military and nonmilitary nature.

Last October, after having been nominated by President Eisenhower with the advice of AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss, Dr. Von Neumann found himself challenged in some quarters for a number of reasons, including his personal belief that Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer is not and has not been a security risk. But many other good Americans feel the same way, and Dr. Von Neumann, in any event, has never questioned either the propriety of the decision reached in this difficult and complex case or the high intelligence, integrity and fairness of the men who handed down that decision after exhaustive inquiry and soul-searching reflection. Further, as the record shows, Dr. Von Neumann opposed Dr. Oppenheimer's initial hesitancy about pressing forward with H-bomb work.

So it is not surprising, in the light of these and numerous other factors, that the Joint Congressional Atomic Committee has voted with gratifying unanimity in approving Dr. Von Neumann's nomination. He deserves a similar confirming vote in the Senate. He has already contributed a great deal to the atomic-hydrogen strength of the Nation, and he can be counted upon to continue rendering vital service in that respect as a member of the AEC.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

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100-64804
NOT RECORDED
126 MAR 23 1955

Wash. Post and
Times Herald _____

Wash. News _____

Wash. Star _____

N. Y. Herald Tribune _____

N. Y. Mirror _____

Date: MAR 14 1955

56 MAR 28 1955

Preliminary Approval

Von Neumann Is Past 1st Hurdle to AEC

By MARSHALL McNEIL

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

Dr. John Von Neumann, world-famous mathematician, has won preliminary approval as a member of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission after being quizzed about his friendship with, and appeals for the acquittal of, a Canadian caught in the atom spy case there.

Dr. Von Neumann also testified that he and his wife had relatives—but none closer than cousins—behind the Iron Curtain. He was born 52 years ago in Hungary.

APPOINTED BY IKE

The scientist was appointed last year by President Eisenhower. The Senate section of the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee has approved his nomination. The next step is for the Senate itself to pass on the nomination.

Dr. Von Neumann also was questioned about the Oppenheimer case, his connection with the H-bomb conflict and his position in that battle.

He admitted that he had joined with a group in a message to the Canadian Prime Minister expressing confidence in and seeking acquittal of Dr. Israel Halperin, another mathematician, who was indicted in



DR. VON NEUMANN

He opposed Oppenheimer.

the Canadian spy case. Dr. Halperin was acquitted, and Dr. Von Neumann said he believes this result confirms his views.

DOESN'T SHARE VIEWS

He said he did not share Dr. Halperin's political beliefs, that he had been "violently opposed to Marxism ever since I can remember."

Dr. Von Neumann said that Dr. Halperin had been one of his students in 1936 and that he had had

professional contacts with him until 1940, and "more loosely after that." He said that he had known Dr. Halperin "very well," and realized that he "might wind up on the wrong side politically." He said Dr. Halperin told him "that essentially he was a Marxist." He said he believed him not guilty of subversion.

OPPOSED OPPENHEIMER

He said he had favored the H-bomb program, thus opposing Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, and felt that he would be a "great mistake" not to go ahead. He said he knew Dr. Oppenheimer "very well," testified in the Gray Board hearing of the Oppenheimer case, and felt that Dr. Oppenheimer was not a security

risk. But he said he was "absolutely satisfied" with the Atomic Energy Commission which withdrew the "Q" clearance given Dr. Oppenheimer. He said he would discourage efforts to get Dr. Oppenheimer's "Q" clearance renewed.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

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126 MAR 25 1955

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MAR 28 1955

Wash. Post and
Times Herald

Wash. News

Wash. Star

N. Y. Herald Tribune

N. Y. Mirror

Date: 3-10-55

JOHN VON NEUMANN
COMMISSIONER
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
SPECIAL INQUIRY

SI completed 10-18-54.

RAA

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
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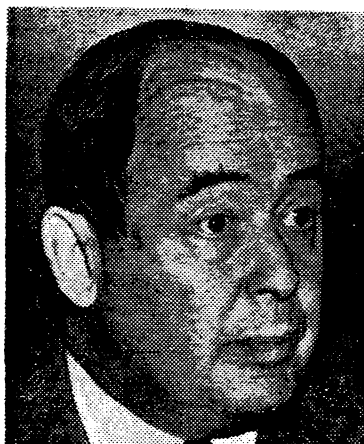
Dr. Von Neumann also testified that he and his wife had relatives—but none closer than cousins—behind the Iron Curtain. He was born 52 years ago in Hungary.

APPOINTED BY IKE

The scientist was appointed last year by President Eisenhower. The Senate section of the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee has approved his nomination. The next step is for the Senate itself to pass on the nomination.

Dr. Von Neumann also was questioned about the Oppenheimer case, his connection with the H-bomb conflict and his position in that battle.

He admitted that he had joined with a group in a message to the Canadian Prime Minister expressing confidence in and seeking acquittal of Dr. Israel Halperin, another mathematician, who was indicted in



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He opposed Oppenheimer.

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Dr. Von Neumann said that Dr. Halperin had been one of his students in 1936 and that he had had

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77-64604-A

NOT RECORDED
195 MAR 11 1955

50 MAR 25 1955

Wash. Post and
Times Herald

Wash. News

Wash. Star

N. Y. Herald Tribune

N. Y. Mirror

Date: 3-18-55

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Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Sizoo _____
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 Miss Gandy _____

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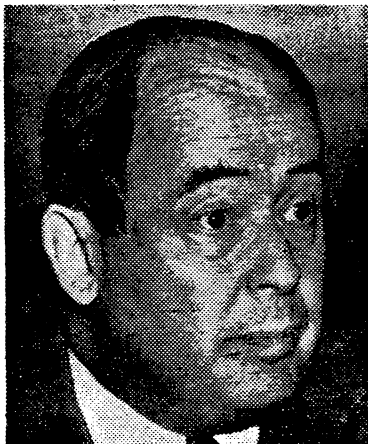
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177-64804-A
 NOT RECORDED
 138 MAR 1955

Wash. Post and
 Times Herald

Wash. News

Wash. Star

N. Y. Herald Tribune

N. Y. Mirror

Date: MAR 10 1955

50 MAR 25 1955

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen ☒ _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Sizoo _____
 Mr. Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

Von Neumann Approved

Members of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy showed both good sense and a high degree of responsibility in voting unanimously to confirm Dr. John von Neumann as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission. Democratic members of the committee, in particular, must have been under sore temptation to play politics with the appointment. Investigation disclosed that Dr. von Neumann not only has cousins in his native Hungary, but also in the past associated, while differing, with persons who later turned out to be Marxists. Under some contemporary criteria this would have been more than enough to brand him a security risk. In view of the attitude of Chairman Strauss of the Atomic Energy Commission in the Oppenheimer case, it would perhaps have been poetic justice—if an immensely unfair and destructive piece of business—for the Democrats to have thrown the von Neumann nomination back in Mr. Strauss' face.

That the committee did no such thing is a tribute to the statesmanship of members, who viewed the real national interest in retaining the services of a man of Dr. von Neumann's attainments. Dr. von Neumann is one of the country's most gifted mathematicians. There is every reason to think that he is unflinchingly loyal and discreet, and that he will make a real contribution to the Atomic Energy Commission. He also has demonstrated his intellectual integrity and independence by reiterating his conviction—expressed compellingly in his testimony before the security board last year—that Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer is not a security risk. Significantly, not a single Senator on either side of the aisle objected to this repeated indorsement.

This is remarkable primarily because of the wave of fear and suspicion in which official actions have been floundering for so long. We take the committee action as a heartening indication that responsible legislators are shucking off any feeling that they must toady to the remnants of McCarthyism. We hope the Administration fully appreciates the meaning of what was done; the example is one for the Executive Branch—and especially the Atomic Energy Commission—to emulate. The next question is whether the Administration will seek a man of like independence, or merely a rubber stamp, for the long unfilled remaining vacancy on the commission.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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Von Neumann Wins Approval For AEC From Joint Committee

By the Associated Press

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He is Dr. John Von Neumann, Hungarian-born researcher who is credited with a major role in the application of high-speed calculating machines to the development of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

His nomination to the AEC post by President Eisenhower now goes to the Senate for confirmation.

A member of the war-time staff at the Los Alamos Atomic Weapons Laboratory and a consultant to all three of the armed services, Dr. Von Neumann was a member of the faculty of the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J., until his nomination to the AEC last October.

In his appearance before members of the joint committee

today, he was asked by Senator Pastore, Democrat, of Rhode Island whether he thought he could serve the atomic program "better as a commissioner than as a consultant."

Replying he thought he could because he'd be working "full time" rather than part time, Dr. Von Neumann said, "I do think I can be of essential service." He added that he felt scientists could do good work on the commission because "I don't think it's true that all the important discoveries have been made," and that, therefore, a scientific viewpoint can be of possible assistance in the AEC's overall work. The AEC already has one other scientist, Dr. Willard Libby.

During his testimony, Dr. Von Neumann said he and Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer "definitely belonged in opposite camps" with regard to early controversy about whether the H-bomb should be built—"I was in favor of the H-bomb."

But he said he felt this dis-



—Harris-Ewing Photo.

DR. JOHN VON NEUMANN.

agreement "did not constitute a security risk (on Dr. Oppenheimer's part), or a question of loyalty."

He also declared that he felt the AEC's ultimate decision to withdraw Dr. Oppenheimer's access to atomic secrets was "properly reached."

He later told a reporter in an-

swer to questions that he personally believed that Dr. Oppenheimer did not constitute a security risk either on the H-bomb matter, or on his "total past record (and) personality."

But he said the commission's decision had been reached on their evaluation of the Oppenheimer case and "according to their own convictions."

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Dr. John von Neumann Is Approved for AEC

By Warren Unna
Staff Reporter

The Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy yesterday unanimously approved the nomination to the Atomic Energy Commission of Dr. John von Neumann, Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies mathematician.

At the same time, the Committee indicated its concern over von Neumann's associations and Hungarian origin may have helped delay yesterday's hearing until 4½ months after his nomination by President Eisenhower, last October 24.

Under questioning by Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), von Neumann said he counted among his academic friends Canadian Professor I. L. Halperin of Queens University, Hamilton, Ontario, and Professor W. J. Alexander, of Princeton.

He said he had joined other academicians in sending a telegram to Canada's Prime Minister protesting Halperin's innocence when Halperin was indicted in the 1946 Canadian atomic spy trials.

He said Halperin subsequently had been "acquitted" by the Royal Canadian Commission, promoted to a full professorship and elected to the Royal Society of Canada, so he felt his opinion had been "corroborated" in official channels.

DR. JOHN VON NEUMANN
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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"My opinions have been violently opposed to Marxism ever since I can remember. However, in that particular case I felt an obligation to a man whose opinions differ from mine, and in a large case, just because they differ from mine," von Neumann told the Committee.

Subsequently, von Neumann added, Halperin told him he was a "Marxist."

As for Professor Alexander, von Neumann declared: "He's a friend of mine, but I certainly don't agree with his political views." Alexander was not further identified.

Von Neumann also said a Communist "absolutely" should not have access to secret atomic information.

The mathematician told Sen. John O. Pastore (D-R. I.) he was "absolutely confident" his Hungarian origin would have no effect on his AEC decisions. He said he fled Hungary in anticipation of its joining the Axis in World War II, became a United States citizen in 1937 and neither he nor his wife had any relatives closer than cousins left in Europe.

Von Neumann made no apologies for his support last year of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer during the lengthy AEC hearing which labeled the famed nuclear physicist a security risk and ineligible to continue as a Government consultant.

He said he did not believe Oppenheimer a "security risk," but that the decision had been made by "honest, intelligent men" and "it would not be in the public interest" to reopen the case.

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JOHN VON NEUMANN
COMMISSIONER
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
SPECIAL INQUIRY

SI completed 10-18-54.

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Harry Ewing Photo.

DR. JOHN VON NEUMANN.

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(VON NEUMANN)
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VON NEUMANN DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS "VIOLENTLY" OPPOSED TO COMMUNISM AND TO "MARXISM." HE SAID HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG PROPONENT OF AN AGGRESSIVE ATOMIC PROGRAM. NATURALIZED IN 1937, VON NEUMANN SAID HE HAS NO RELATIVES IN HUNGARY CLOSER THAN COUSINS AND HAS NOT BEEN IN HIS NATIVE LAND SINCE 1937.

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WITH ONLY THE SLIGHTEST PRODDING, VON NEUMANN VOLUNTEERED AN ACCOUNT OF HIS SUPPORT OF HALPERIN. SEN. ALBERT COKE (D-TENN.), ANNOUNCING HIS INTENTION TO SUPPORT VON NEUMANN'S NOMINATION, ASKED WHETHER THE SCIENTIST WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON ANY ASSOCIATION "WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN BROUGHT TO QUESTION."

VON NEUMANN SAID THAT HALPERIN HAD BEEN HIS STUDENT. HE SAID HE JOINED WITH PERHAPS A DOZEN OTHER ASSOCIATES IN WIRING THE CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE CANADIAN TRIALS EXPRESSING THE CONVICTION THAT HALPERIN WAS INNOCENT. HALPERIN'S ACQUITTAL, HIS SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE IN ACADEMIC CIRCLES IN CANADA CONVINCED HIM THAT HIS SUPPORT WAS JUSTIFIED, VON NEUMANN SAID. HE SAID HALPERIN, WHO HAD ONCE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A "MARXIST", MIGHT WIND UP "ON THE WRONG SIDE POLITICALLY" BUT WOULD NEVER BE GUILTY OF SUBVERSION. HE SAID HE BELIEVES "ABSOLUTELY" THAT MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY SHOULD DISQUALIFY A PERSON FOR ACCESS TO SECRET INFORMATION.

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WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

A Scientist Looks at Security

There is something reassuring in the appointment of Dr. John Von Neumann to the Atomic Energy Commission which goes beyond his undisputed standing as a brilliant man of science. It has nothing to do, directly, with the fact that he testified in defense of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer in the latter's security-risk hearing. It does not spring from his farsighted advocacy of an all-out effort to make the hydrogen bomb, nor from the fact that he had much to do with its successful development.

Instead, it is a reassurance which finds its source in the knowledge that the President has chosen for this highly important post a man whose feet seem to be firmly planted on the ground.

Dr. Von Neumann is not an extremist. He does not believe that the good wartime relationship between scientists and the Government is being "destroyed" by our security system. And remarks to the effect that scientists will cease to work for the Government have been characterized by him as "loose" talk. At the same time, he is fully alive to the dangers and shortcomings of the security system as it operates today.

Dr. Von Neumann starts from the premise that the problems which grow out of the need to protect Government secrets on the one hand, and the protection of the rights of individuals on the other, will be with us for a long time. Testifying before the House Government Operations Committee last summer, Dr. Von Neumann put it this way:

The strained world situation (out of which these acute problems flow) has been going on for 10 years, and 10 years is a long time; and if it has been going on for 10 years, it might easily go on for another 10 years. I have a lot of confidence that the (security) problem will have to be solved, but I think it will have to be solved by legislation. I do not bank on the problem of security disappearing, because it is completely outside our control. It exists for reasons about which we can do nothing. It may not disappear.

He went on from this rather cheerless starting point to argue that a dismissal for security reasons is, for the average person, and especially for "small people," a professional catastrophe. In many industries it would be comparable, he said, to the expulsion of a doctor by the American Medical Association. Dr. Von Neumann pursued the matter in this vein:

Public attention is now focused on this problem, and the public frequently views security proceedings as minor trials for treason. Yet we are still living with a system where this is an administrative matter and is handled administratively, not judicially. This is a very bad situation because by now the public puts a judicial interpretation on all the administrative measures that are taken, and the administrative measures have to be taken by administrators and not by judges, and therefore without most of the safeguards that would surround a judicial procedure.

Dr. Von Neumann was not prepared to spell out the details of a desirable judicial procedure. That will be a very difficult thing to do, if it can be done, and it is not his responsibility. It is reassuring, however, to know that a man of these views can be named to the sensitive AEC. Those who fear the consequences of the prevailing security program will be glad to know that a voice such as Dr. Von Neumann's may henceforth be heard in the inner circles.

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